

THE SANTA PARTY

How Lots of Christmas Fun May Be Had by Boys' Club.

Each Lad Provides One Present, Made by Himself, for Old Kris Kringle's Bag.

THE biggest boy in the club should be the Santa Claus. To dress him up, borrow a bath robe, and trim it round the collar and cuffs with some old fur. A big fur cap is the thing for Santa Claus' head, and a great big bag should be provided for him to hang over his shoulder to carry the presents in. A paper mask for Santa can be bought at some small store for about twenty cents, and a big beard can be made of excelsior, tied up so as to stay in place. If the excelsior can be dyed gray all the better.

Each boy in the club should provide one present for Santa's bag. It would be better if each boy should make the present himself. Good things for such presents are bean bags, baseballs, bats, shiny sticks, tops, marbles, short wooden awards, stings, putty blowers, jaw's-harps, soap-bubble pipes, jack-stones, match-safes, candy, chewing gum, and so on.

All the presents for the Santa Claus party should be handed to a committee of three knights, whose duty it is to pack them all neatly in Santa Claus' bag. At the time of the party, the members of the club should gather together in the meeting room, and the committee may meet in a room near by with the big boy who is to be Santa Claus. They must dress him up and escort him to the club. When Santa comes in all with rice, and the present-bag will say:

"Greeting, Santa Claus; the boys await you."
Santa may reply, "Greeting, my children."

Then Santa passes out the presents. It is best for the boys to form a line, and for Santa to reach in the bag without looking and pull out the first thing that comes to his hand.

The last present in the bag is Santa Claus'. A good deal of amusement can be had at the party if a committee of five boys is chosen to look after the entertainment. A good plan is to get up shadow pictures. A sheet is hung up near one end of the room, about five feet from the wall. Behind the sheet, close to the wall and low down, is placed a strong light. The knights and others who are to be the audience all sit in front, and when everything

is ready all lights except the one behind the sheet are put out. The boys who are to make the shadow pictures then go between the light and the sheet and cut up all sorts of antics, throwing large shadows on the sheet. If there is a boy who can make odd shadow pictures with his hands he can amuse the club for some time.

Another thing that makes fun at a Santa Claus party may be called the "boy orator." A large pair of boots is provided, and the boy orator puts his arms in these and stands back of a table, so that his booted arms may look like a pair of short legs and he appears to be a funny little man standing on the table. Another boy stands behind him, and puts his arms through under the orator's arms and makes the gestures while the orator delivers his speech. This can be made very funny if the orator utters a good speech and if the boy who makes the gestures waves his arms and makes very bad and inappropriate gestures. It is especially trying for the orator if the gesture holder a handkerchief in his hands and wipes his face occasionally or waves it in triumph at inappropriate times.—The Reformer.

Present and Future.

The wise youth prepares for the future. But during the holiday which he should also remember the present that is expected by his best girl.

Santa Claus Did Come



AFRAID OF SANTA

Black Tots at African Mission Make for Place of Safety.

Presents of Apparel and Sweets Bring Confidence to the Men, Women and Kiddies.

AN AMUSING story of how Santa Claus frightened the black children at a mission station when he first appeared to them a few years ago, is told by the wife of a missionary stationed at Ballunda, Africa. They had celebrated Christmas at Ballunda before, but they never had had Santa Claus; so Mr. Stover, the missionary, dressed up as good Saint Nick.

"He had been padded and powdered and packed until his own mother would not have known him," Mrs. Stover afterward related. "Presently we gave the signal, the door flew open and in walked Santa Claus. But, dear me! What consternation! He was greeted with shrieks and groans and cries of 'Let us out! It is the evil one. It is the day of judgment!'"

"The archdeacon, catching the infection of terror from the older black people, fled to their bedrooms, fell down upon their faces, crept under chairs and tables—anywhere to hide themselves. Poor old Santa Claus never had such a greeting before. As soon as he realized the panic he had caused, he tore off his tall hat and white cotton beard. Then from the bags on his back he began to throw gifts right and left and to tell who he was.

"Reassured once more, everyone was soon laughing and chatting, munching the great 'red breads' (doughnuts), tasting their fruits or nibbling at the sweets from the familiar little bags. One man wondered which and up he was to hold the fork Santa Claus had given him. Another immediately tried on his new shirt. The girls arranged their bright-hued handkerchiefs into turbans, while others sought to find some place about their scanty clothing where they could stow away their bunch of bread, as well as the paper of needles and cake of soap given to each.

"It seemed as though everyone tried to talk louder than his neighbor as they examined the costume of Santa Claus, whom they now no longer feared. One man said that he thought it was John the Baptist; another that it was Elijah returned. Yet another thought it was Satan himself.

Hanging Pictures.

In hanging pictures don't "sky them." A picture should be hung so that its center comes just on a level with a person of average height.

THE CHRISTMAS TABLE

Little Things That Add Much to Success of Home Day.

How the Housewife Can Prepare Delicacies That Will Appeal to Both Old and Young.

THE housewife can indulge in these exclusive imaginings, however, only in the earliest of her preparations for the Christmas dinner, says Country Life in America. Soon she must closely consider the feast which will be suitable to her own household and purse. If she is a wise housewife, she will not make her festival over-elaborate, whatever the size of her income. She will want something more than "wine and waters and a rose," but she will find that, if she puts her own best efforts into the decorations, and caters with a thought for the tastes and fancies and little memories of those she is to serve, she will have a charming dinner, whatever the number of its courses.

Much of the pleasure of the Christmas dinner depends upon small things. This is the occasion for the most choice of the jolly and pickles which have been stored up in the summer. Of course, there must be celery and cranberry sauce, and the housewife will, if possible, have some small thing that is new to her household—a little luxury that comes in glass, if the cost must not be heavy, or, if she need not think of that, some fancy-fetched dainty with the international interest of coming from Japan or from the Philippines.

Dessert allows ample opportunity for small pleasures and surprises. One can hardly believe a child's happiness complete without raisins and almonds to eat in tiny sandwiches and as philopans. One always hopes to see the old-fashioned kinds of candy at Christmas—striped sticks and clear sticks, and barley sugar, chocolate creams, and gum-drops. They are pretty for the table, and not bad for children, and older people like them for the sake of long-ago Christmas.

Plenty of Mistletoe.

The mistletoe supply is plentiful this year, but, as the girls say, what of it?



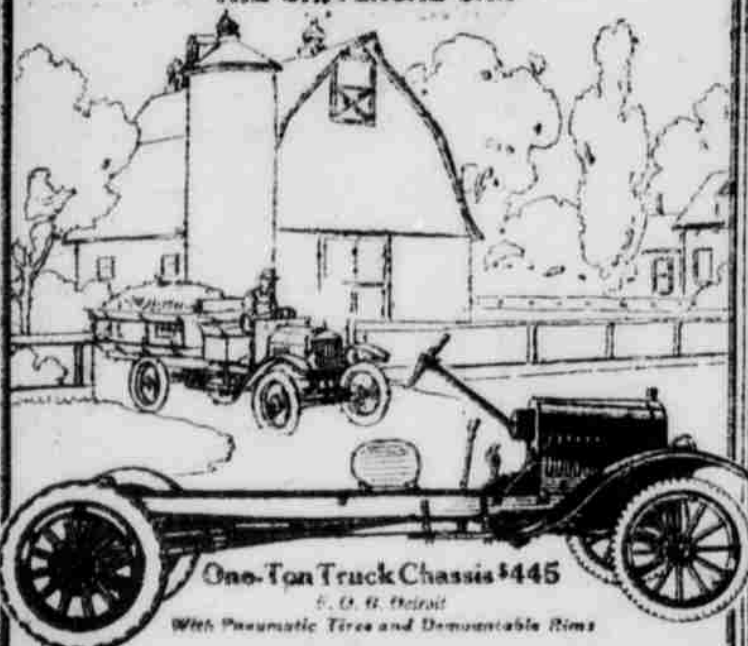
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